

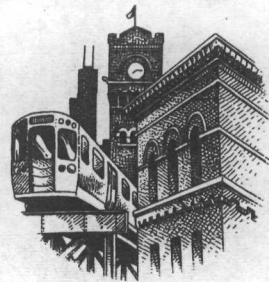
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News of South Loop, Near West and

CHICAGO



Volume 1, No. 48 ■ Thursday, September 13, 20

'It's bizarre'

Plans for new lakefront
park in limbo

*Negotiating clean-up of
contaminated DuSable
Park site stalls project*

By LYDIALYLE GIBSON

Staff Writer

Grant Park Advisory Council President Bob O'Neill is keeping his eye on DuSable Park. Squeezed between Lake Michigan, Lake Shore Drive and Lake Point Tower, the land will eventually become a public park named for the city's first settler, Jean Baptiste du Sable, is at the moment a three-acre clump of radioactive weeds. And according to O'Neill, not enough's being done to change that.

"This is something people are very interested in," O'Neill said "It's one of the biggest issues we're facing right now. It's generated more calls and emails than anything else. The city has

*An effort to keep low-income tenant
apartments could have a broad effect on the*



After 13 years in a Section 8-underwritten apartment at Michigan and Roosevelt, Linda Ar building consider opting out of the federal low-income housing subsidy.

'This could be

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"This is something people are very interested in," O'Neill said "It's one of the biggest issues we're facing right now. It's generated more calls and emails than anything else. The city has to find the money for it. This issue has to be very public. Otherwise the money will go elsewhere."

Located at 401 N. Lake Shore Drive, the park has been soaked in thorium—and perhaps other toxic chemicals—for decades, ever since a lamp factory west of Lake Shore Drive was closed in the 1930s and the soil from underneath it was dumped on the lakefront site. But the contamination wasn't discovered until December of last year, when United States Environmental Protection Agency officials conducted soil sample tests there. And according to O'Neill, whose group had just finished fending off Park District plans for a temporary parking lot at DuSable Park last summer, that's when things got really complicated.

According to Park District spokesman Angelynne Amores, the design and development of DuSable Park, along with a necessary bolstering of the shoreline to keep it from crumbling into the lake, are on hold until the site can be cleaned. Amores said Park District officials still have no cost estimate for the reclamation, and they're negotiating with agents from the USEPA

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After 13 years in a Section 8-underwritten apartment at Michigan and Roosevelt, Linda Arnold may have building consider opting out of the federal low-income housing subsidy.

'This could be a

By BRETT SCHAEFFER

Contributing Writer

Linda Arnold likes living at Roosevelt Road and Michigan Avenue. "This is convenient for me," said the 48-year-old resident of the high-rise at 1212 S. Michigan Ave.

There's a small grocery store on the street level of the building, Grant Park and the Museum Campus are steps away, and there's easy access to buses on Michigan Avenue and Roosevelt Road and to the Metra trains and CTA stops along Michigan and State Street.

Arnold said the neighborhood is safe, quiet, and close to the University of Chicago at Illinois Medical Center where she receives medical treatment for osteoporosis and sickle-cell anemia. Arnold has lived at 1212 for 13 years, and wants to continue living there.

In the end, though, the decision may not be hers to make.

Arnold, along with more than 60 other tenants in the 344-unit building, is part of the Section 8 program—a federal rent subsidy for low-income households.

The owners of 1212 S. Michigan, Security Properties, Inc., are expected to opt out of their Section 8 contract when it expires in the spring, meaning the subsidy the owners receive for those units will no longer be available.

The company notified tenants in February of the possibility of an opt-out. Under HUD guidelines, the owners must notify the ten-

ants of their final date, next March management contract status to Security could be reached

"A lot of buildings have chosen not to," Lynne, executive noted that in most were ultimately to

"The Transportation said, citing the Harrison and Dea the late 1980s.

Many of the 20 early 1980s are ab potentially creati to the Chicago Re providers.

A few blocks s high-rise at 21st a out, according to in the loss of 50 S

Overall, the ag

THE DIARIST

Will he or won't he — and does anybody care?

Stalking the rumor of an MJ comeback on West Randolph

By BRETT SCHAEFFER

Contributing Writer

I'm not Rick Telander—the crown prince of Chicago sportswriters has his "Jordan in the Gym" exclusive in this month's ESPN magazine. I'm

From the outside, the Hoops building is spare: a square, cement building painted white and gray. Inside, the color scheme is identical. There was a sterile feeling as I walked through the doors—not hospital-sterile, because there was no antiseptic odor. More space-age ster-

IN THE JOURNAL

Response to attack

The day after Loop buildings cleared out, illegal parking banned downtown

2

They won't go

Jane Addams residents rally against ABLA relocations

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Carjacker can't drive

One block after Roosevelt Road heist, auto thief dead-

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In the wa
Tri-T

By NAT
Edito

A fter a sun and drug West Side "special police team" crack residents and 121 turned out for Thursday at W

'Ironical' designs for DuSable Park on display

Continued from page 1

for further, more detailed tests.

"You can't put the cart before the horse," Amores said. "You can't put the development of the park before the remediation. The remediation dictates what can be done with the park."

But the remediation seems to have stalled on the issue of financial responsibility for what may be a quite onerous and expensive task. According to Amores, Park District officials are studying the matter carefully.

"All that needs exploration, because the Park District did not put thorium on site, and for matter, neither did the residents or the Chicago taxpayers," she said.

EPA officials seem equally interested in compelling the money for the cleanup and future testing from someone else. O'Neill said he'd been sent a letter addressed to the Park District in which EPA officials announced they wouldn't pay for further tests necessary for assessing the

cost and extent of the reclamation. EPA spokesman Mick Hans said officials at his agency are still negotiating the funding for those tests.

"The last I heard from those working on the project, it was still in the process of sorting out what the company responsible for this might be doing as far as testing, versus what we wanted them to do," Hans said. "And there was some back and forth, as sometimes happens with things like this."

Although the Lindsay Light Company, whose incandescent lamp manufacturing during the first third of the century has contaminated more than one site along Lake Shore Drive, no longer exists, it was bought by a company called Kerr/McGee. According to Amores, Kerr/McGee should be held responsible for the expense of cleanup and testing.

O'Neill said he's perplexed by what seems to be a standstill in the remediation and development

of DuSable Park. He's worried, he said, that temporary inaction may halt neighborhood momentum behind the project.

"This is one of the most bizarre parks issues ever to come up," he said. "I biked by there yesterday, and every time I go by, I can't believe how visible it is. It's not that the Park District doesn't want to do it—they want to. It's bizarre. We'll just keep pushing until it gets done."

Although they have no figures for the cost of removing the thorium from DuSable Park, officials at the Park District did turn out for a Grant Park Advisory Council meeting last month to present cost estimates for shoring up the site's lake edge. According to O'Neill, the officials told his gathering of parks activists the project would cost \$2.5 million. Already underway is an enormous monument to du Sable sculpted by American artist Martin Puryear, who was commissioned for the project nearly 10 years ago. According to O'Neill, the monument will cost another \$500,000.

"This is going to take \$5 million to build this park," he said. "We need to advocate for getting this area finished."

Meanwhile, even though the park's design is stuck for now in an embryonic phase (a rough concept was sketched out to help Puryear devise a scheme for his du Sable monument), a few local artists, architects, and kids are getting the jump on the public input process, starting Friday. After holding two brainstorming sessions in June, artist and Art Institute professor Laurie

Palmer will open an exhibit of 63 possible designs for the park at the West Loop's Gallery 312. Not all the proposals are serious, Palmer said, and many of them are very serious. Among the not-so-serious: a retirement home for lesbians in the shape of a bathtub, and a retirement home for romantic seascape painters in the shape of a ship.

"The general goal is to open up the design process to the public, and for this project in particular, because of its symbolic weight," Palmer said. "It's really important to open up the process to many voices ... All along the designs were meant to be speculative. They're ironic or funny or playful. They're not necessarily connected to realization, but once things get imagined, and people see what's possible, sometimes they are realized."

Paul Brenner, the director of Gallery 312, said the exhibit also raises issues about building boom development and public land.

"There's the larger question of what's happening in Chicago, and it's happening so fast," Brenner said. "Developers are leapfrogging through the neighborhood. People move in and make it desirable for developers in Wicker Park, in Streeterville—and then they get priced out. Frankly, happened here in the West Loop. there's a lot of problems with land usage alluded to in this exhibit ... I mean, toxic waste was dumped from developers excavating sites on what is supposed to be a public park. How does happen?"

Making Peace with Work: Integrating Spirituality in our Workplaces

**Grace Church and the Institute
for Spiritual Leadership present:**

Saturday with Your Spirit Series

Sept. 22, 2001 • 9 am to 4 pm • Grace Place • 637 S. Dearborn

Presenter: Michael Skelley, Ph.D.

Authentic spirituality nurtures peace within, around us, and throughout the world. This workshop will explore how we can foster individual, organizational and global peace by more deeply integrating spirituality and our work. We will discuss topics such as integrating meditation in our work, developing our sense of vocation, dealing with change, working collaboratively, and providing leadership that is grounded in spirituality. The workshop will include lecture, collaborative learning, and reflective activities. Come and explore how you can connect your work and your spirituality more effectively. Michael Skelley, Ph.D. is a member of the faculty of DePaul University's School for New Learning. He has been writing and teaching about the interrelationship of spirituality, work and organizational change for many years.

Pre-registration required. Call Pat at 312.922.1426 \$30

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DR. ARTHUR DEDRICK GRIFFIN
PASTOR

Hello Neighbor!

You are cordially invited to share and participate in an exciting community ministry that is multicultural and multi-racial, specifically designed to...

Residents seek cops' help

Continued from page 1

One resident asked what she should do as a young mother, saying, "I'm afraid to go out at night. I look out my window and pray no one comes by; that's how bad it is."

Some of the stories of ongoing criminal activity came as news to the half-dozen officers at the meeting, most of whom

urged residents to make their first call to 911 and even offered to give out his own pager number.

Overall, Edwards said he was "encouraged" by what he saw as progress had been made and although he acknowledged areas of needed improvement, he told residents if he were them he "would be satisfied" at by police